

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 /081 W
-----067044 130430Z /20

R 121604Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9339
INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS
USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 15137

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINR, PGOV, NI, EG
SUBJ: AFRICAN ATTITUDES TOWARD NIGERIA

REF (A) STATE 208244, (B) CAIRO 14721,

1. DURING CONVERSATION WITH MEMBER OF FORNMINS CABINET SEP 12
CONCERNING LAGOS ANTI-APARTHEID CONF, POLCOUNS HAD OPPORTUNITY
OBTAIN READING OF CURRENT GOE VIEWS OF NIGERIAN ROLE IN
AFRICA. MAIN POINTS FOLLOW:

2. NIGERIAN GOVT IS ATTEMPTING PLAY LEADERSHIP ROLE WHICH
ONE MIGHT EXPECT FROM ONE OF CONTINENT'S LARGEST, RICHEST AND
MOST POPULACE COUNTRIES. HOWEVER, DUE TO LACK OF PRESTIGIOUS
LEADER AND INTERNAL INSTABILITY, INCLUDING CHRISTIAN-
MUSLIM AND TRIBAL CONFLICTS, IT DOES NOT IN FACT EXERT
MUCH INFLUENCE IN AOU COUNCILS. FOR EXAMPLE, MOST RADICALS
BELIEVE IT IS ON MODERATE-CONSERVATIVE SIDE EVEN WHEN, AS DURING
ANGOLAN AND ZAIRE CRISES, IT HAD ATTEMPTED TAKE MIDDLE ROAD.
MUCH MORE INFLUENTIAL AFRICAN LEADERS ARE NYERERE AND JAUNDA,
ESPECIALLY NYERERE. NIGERIA WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK FOR AFRICA,
BUT UNTIL IT ESTABLISHES INTERNAL STABILITY AND STRENGTH
AND LEADER OF STATURE EMERGES, NIGERIAN WILL NOT BE EFFECTIVE
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AFRICAN LEADER.

3. COMMENT: ABOVE VIEWS PROBABLY CLOSE TO THOSE OF FORMIN
FAHMY (WHO TENDS TO DENIGRATE COMPETITORS) AND DO NOT NECESS-
ARILY REPRESENT THOSE OF AFRICAN SPECIALISTS WITHIN MFA.
LATTER HAVE ON OCCASION EXPRESSED PREFERENCE FOR NIGERIAN
ATTEMPTS TO FOLLOW MIDDLE ROAD COURSE IN RADICAL-MODERATE

CONFLICTS OVER EGYPT'S ROLE AS LEADING MODERATE AND TAKING
OF SIDES WITH SUCH LEADERS AS MOBUTO.
EILTS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977CAIRO15137
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770330-1157
Format: TEL
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770975/aaaacra.tel
Line Count: 65
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 72178648-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 208244, 77 CAIRO 14721
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1312646
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AFRICAN ATTITUDES TOWARD NIGERIA
TAGS: PINR, PGOV, NI, EG, XA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/72178648-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009